10. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said upper and lower sides of said strap are coupled by stitching thread material through said strap.
11. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said hook fastener is coupled to said lower side of said strap.
12. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said loop fastener is coupled to said upper side of said strap.
13. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said hook fastener is coupled to the lower side of said strap by stitching thread material through said strap.
14. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said loop fastener is coupled to said strap by stitching thread material through said strap.
15. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said strap has a reflective strip.
16. The method of securing multiple sleeves as recited in claim 1 wherein said strap has a reflective strip coupled to said upper side of said strap.

2. Claim Rejection –

A. The invention by Reiber (US6,081,925) claims a device to hold a **single** garment's sleeve of a user. The preferred method of use for the device is on the shoulder of the user, and through the garments sleeve. Our claim is unique from Reiber's claim in that it comprises a method of holding two or more sleeves together, simultaneously, around said sleeves, after clothing has first been removed, and with a preferred use at the user's waist.

Reiber's claim, (emphasis added)

1. A method of securing ***a sleeve*** *comprising:*

a) providing a strap comprising an upper side and a lower side and first and second ends, and at least one layer of material, wherein said upper and lower sides are relatively smooth uninterrupted surfaces;

b) providing said first and second ends with respective first and second fastening mechanisms coupled to said strap on opposite sides thereof and where neither of said fastening mechanisms traverses the entire length of said strap;

c) placing said strap between a user's shoulder and a garment sleeve such that said strap is elongated in a direction substantially parallel to said user's shoulder;

d) placing said first end of said strap and said second end of said strap into proximity with one another; and

d) fastening said first end of said strap to said second end of said strap by engaging said first fastening mechanism with said second fastening mechanism.

2. The method of ***securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 1, wherein said first fastening mechanism and said second fastening mechanism further comprise cooperating strips of hook and loop fastener fabric.*

3. The method ***of securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 1, wherein said strap further comprises a label coupled to said upper side of said strap.*

4. The method of ***securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 1, wherein said label further comprises textile material.*

5. The method of ***securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 4, wherein said label is coupled to said upper side of said strap by sewing.*

6. The method of ***securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 1, wherein said label further comprises polyvinyl chloride material.*

7. The method of ***securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 6, wherein said label is coupled to said upper side of said strap by adhesively joining said label to said strap.*

8. The method ***of securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 1, wherein said label further comprises thread material.*

9. The method of ***securing a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 8, wherein said label is coupled to said upper side of said strap by stitching said thread material through said strap.*

10. In combination with a sleeved garment, ***a sport sleeve*** *holder comprising:*

a strap, having an upper side and a lower side and a first end and a second end, said strap further comprising at least one layer of material, said upper side and said lower side consisting of relatively smooth surfaces; and

a first fastening mechanism coupled to said upper side of said first end of said strap, and a second fastening mechanism coupled to said lower side of said second end of said strap, wherein neither said first fastening mechanism nor said second fastening mechanism traverses the entire length of said strap.

11. The ***sport sleeve*** *holder as recited in claim 10, further comprising a label coupled to said upper side of said strap.*

12. A method of ***securing a sleeve*** *comprising:*

a) providing a strap comprising an upper side and a lower side and a first end and a second end, said strap comprising at least one layer of material, wherein said upper side and said lower side are relatively smooth uninterrupted surfaces;

b) providing said first end with a first fastening mechanism coupled to said upper side and said second end with a second fastening mechanism coupled to said lower side;

c) providing said strap with a label coupled to said upper side of said strap;

d) placing said strap between a user's shoulder and a garment sleeve such that said strap is elongated in a direction substantially parallel to said user's shoulder;

e) placing said first end of said strap and said second end of said strap into proximity with one another; and

f) fastening said first end of said strap to said second end of said strap by engaging said first fastening mechanism with said second fastening mechanism.

13. The method of securing ***a sleeve*** *as recited in claim 12, wherein said first fastening mechanism and said second fastening mechanism further comprise cooperating strips of hook and loop fastener fabric.*

B. Smart's (4,825,475) claims recite a method for a pant leg wherein the device is worn around the user's leg. Our claim differs and is unique from Smart as our claim

is to holding multiple sleeves of a garment and that the device is worn only around the garment and not around any portion of the user. Further, our claim is to a device that holds sleeves of a garment that has been first removed by the user and placed around the user's waist. Our claim is to a device that is generally perpendicular and vertical to the user's body, while Smart's claim is to a device that is generally parallel and horizontal to the user's waist.

Similar to item A above, our claim goes to holding multiple pieces (i.e. sleeves) with the single item. Smart's claim restrains a single pant leg. Additionally, Smart's preferred construction is substantially different in material and design than our claimed construction.

> *Smart*'s claim: (emphasis added)
>
> *I claim:*
>
> *1. A restraint for* ***the lower end of a pantleg*** *comprising:*
>
> *(a) a flexible cloth band having means to encircle the leg of a user near the ankle and having means to connect the band to itself to form a loop around the leg, said means to connect the band to itself comprising hook-and-loop fastener material; and*
>
> *(b) pant engaging means for engaging the lower end of a pantleg, said pantleg engaging means comprising a plurality of clips for slipping over a distal end of a pantleg and over a portion of said band,*
>
> *(c) wherein said band defines pockets, downwardly directed in use, to seat said clips to engage said part let.*
>
> *2. Structure according to claim 1 wherein said clips are removable from said band.*
>
> *3. Structure according to claim 1 wherein said clips are plasticized metal.*
>
> *4. Structure according to claim 1 wherein said band incorporates a length of elastic to make it stretchable throughout substantially the entire length.*

For the reasons stated above we believe our claims should be accepted as corrected.

Sincerely,

Pamela Grisham, et al
Applicants